

Christopher L. Beschler

Virginia Department of General Services Director

Christopher L. Beschler has served as Director of the Department of General Services (DGS) since 2015, when Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed him to the position. Beschler manages the agency's more than 600 employees, four divisions, and eight business units with an annual operating budget of approximately \$238 million. The agency is responsible for the renovation and construction of state-owned facilities, the operation of a statewide electronic procurement system, analytical laboratory testing, the buying, selling and leasing of real estate properties, the management of a statewide fleet, and the selling of surplus property.

Beschler's public sector career began in 2006 with the City of Richmond, where he first led the Department of Public Utilities before being named the city's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer in 2008. In that role, Beschler was responsible for oversight of Public Utilities, Public Works, General Services, Capital Projects and the Office of Sustainability. He oversaw construction of the Richmond City Justice Center as well as merged 311 information and Public Utility call centers to create an enhanced customer service and cost savings. Beschler directed the design and replacement of a collapsed Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) trunk line from Tropical Storm Ernesto, securing \$36 million of relief from FEMA for the project, the largest national grant since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to fund replacement. Beschler twice served as Acting Chief Administrative Officer, from 2008-2009 and in 2014.

Prior to his public service, Beschler worked for more than 25 years for Yankee Gas Services Company, Connecticut's largest natural gas utility. He spent four years as the company's Vice President of Operations.

A native of Connecticut, Beschler earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in business administration from the University of Connecticut. He is past treasurer of the Virginia Municipal Storm Water Association and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society of Collegiate Schools of Business. He is a recipient of the 2005 Heroes of the Hurricanes Award from the American Gas Association and is Incident Command System certified by the Emergency Management Institute.